MEMO

DATE: January 6, 2004

TO: Transportation & Communications Committee

FROM: Bob Huddy, Senior Transportatioin Planner,
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RE: Southern California Regional ITS Architecture Update

SUMMARY:

Federal regulation requires the development of a regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture. Ms. Jackie Golob, Project Manager for NET will give an overview of the rule, requirements, schedule, and progress to date. Staff will be returning to TCC in February 2005 with a draft of the Southern California Regional ITS Architecture for review and approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Southern California Regional ITS Architecture is being developed to guide the integration and deployment of ITS to improve the safety and efficiency of the regional transportation system. The region is required to develop a Regional Architecture pursuant to Federal Regulations contained in CFR 940.9 and 940.11. This regulation requires that a Regional Architecture be in place by April 8, 2005. ITS projects funded through the Highway and Transit Trust Funds must be consistent with the Regional Architecture to be eligible for Federal funding. The intent of the regulation is to promote the development of ITS systems that are effective and compatible in the exchange of information to better manage and operate the transportation system.

ITS systems use advanced technologies in detection, communications, and computing to improve the management and operation of the surface transportation system. ITS includes things like computerized traffic signal systems, changeable message signs, traffic detection, video surveillance, ramp metering, rapid bus, "real time" traffic and transit information systems, automated toll and fare collection, automated vehicle location, weigh in motion, automated commercial vehicle credentials, and traffic management centers. ITS creates a capability to pro-actively manage highway and transit systems, to share "real time" traveler information with the public, improve safety, emergency response, and enhance homeland security. The application of ITS technologies can result in significant economic benefits from improved operational efficiency, more effective use of our transportation investments, and improved economic competitiveness of the region.

SCAG has contracted with a consulting team lead by National Engineering Technologies (NET) Corporation to assist in developing the Regional ITS Architecture. This is a bottom up stakeholder driven process that includes all of the County Transportation Commissions, Caltrans Districts, Imperial County, and Metrolink. The final product will be based upon input from the Regional Integration of ITS from LACMTA and the Inland Empire ITS Architecture as building blocks, and will include updates of the Architectures for Ventura County Transportation

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Commission, Orange County Transportation Authority, and Imperial County, as well as Region-wide systems.

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